

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 03213 280447Z

ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 EUR-12

ACDA-12 OMB-01 /095 W

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R 280408Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2260

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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CINCPAC

CINAPCFLT PEARL HARBOR HI

COMSEVENTHFLT

CINCPACREPPHIL

UNCLAS MANILA 3213

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MILI, RP, TH, AS, US, UK

SUBJ: DAILY EXPRESS EDITORIAL ON SEA SIAM VII NAVAL EXERCISE

REF: (A) MANILA 3195; (B) CINCPACFLT 250504Z FEB 78 (NOTAL)

DAILY EXPRESS OF FEBRUARY 28 CARRIES FOLLOWING EDITORIAL
ON SEA SIAM VII COMBINED NAVAL EXERCISE: QUOTE. AN
INCIDENT IN SUBIC BAY A FEW DAYS AGO, IN WHICH SEVERAL
AUSTRALIAN, BRITISH, AND THAI WARSHIPS TAKING
PART IN A US-CALLED NAVAL EXERCISE WITHIN PHILIPPINE WATERS
WERE DENIED THE USE OF THE BASE FACILITIES BY THE PHILIPPINE
GOVERNMENT, UNWITTINGLY BRINGS TO LIGHT THE AMERICAN'S
ALMOST LACKADAISICAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS OUR EFFORTS TO
MINIMIZE IRRITANTS IN THE BASES TREATY.

THE REASON FOR THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S DENIAL
WAS THE FAILURE OF THE THREE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES TO
OBTAIN PRIOR CONSENT FOR THE USE OF THE BASES FROM
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PAGE 02 MANILA 03213 280447Z

THE HOST COUNTRY, US DELINQUENCY IN NOT INFORMING
MANILA ABOUT THE ONGOING NAVAL EXERCISES WITHIN PHILIPPINE
WATERS, AND FAILING TO ASK PERMISSION FOR THE OTHER
PARTICIPATING VESSELS TO USE THE BASE.

A SIMPLE CASE OF CARELESSNESS? THAT'S A LITTLE
DIFFICULT TO BUY, IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A CASE OF THE

PATRONIZING ATTITUDE THAT SOME US OFFICIALS HAVE TOWARDS
OUR SOVERIGNTY. TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY, SOME
OFFICIALS ATTRIBUTED POLITICAL REASONS FOR THE DENIAL--PARTI-
CULARLY THE COUNTRY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH VIETNAM.
THAT'S EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO BUY. AN OFFICIAL EXPLANATION
IS CLEARLY DEMANDED. END QUOTE.
STULL

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